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viding for the erection of a monument in Maine to General Knox, foretells the fate of a bill in which Louisville is interested." Colonel Kilgore is evidently a close observer, as usual, of congressional plans for spending money, and he has his hatchet with him.

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 10, 1888.

To the Gazette.  
To settle a dispute, will you please be so kind as to give Cleveland's official majority over Harrison in the state of Texas at the recent election, and oblige.

A SUBSCRIBER.  
THE GAZETTE regrets its inability to comply with the above request. The last Texas paper heard of Cleveland's majority in Texas was 135,000 plus, with seven counties to hear from.

IF SOME of the solid Southern states don't let go during the coming four years they will get a rap across the knuckles.—(Minneapolis Tribune.)  
Oh, don't! The South is in the Union and a part of it, and you can't help yourself, brother. When Republicanism in the South signifies something, misgovernment and legal robbery, there may be a Republican party in the South. But until Southern Republicanism can command itself to the respect of men all over the South are wasted. Think about it and never forget that you fought to save the Union and saved it.

SOME time ago THE GAZETTE humorously suggested certain Texas Republicans for the places now filled by Democrats. THE GAZETTE's suggestion included Web Fanning as a successor to Dick Hubbard in Japan. That item has made the tour of the Union and now returns home to us in this shape from a Texas contemporary: "Web Fanning, a Republican, is likely to get the Japanese mission. Will he not want a rope and branding iron and a pitching horse to give prominence to Texas characteristics abroad?"

A LITTLE newsboy of Waco named Aleck W. Peckinson thus writes THE GAZETTE, and this paper assures him that, of all the many kind words said of THE GAZETTE, his letter of the 11th inst. is most appreciated:  
Waco, Tex., Dec. 11, 1888.  
Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 11, 1888.  
GENTLEMEN—As a newsboy, would like to let you know that I think your news dress fits you splendidly, and I think, as your paper is already the best paper in the state, is a much better paper than it was.

I have been selling your paper for nearly (3) two years.  
I work in the mornings for Hall & Waller. I am an office boy, and in the evenings I sell your paper.  
I think the sale of THE GAZETTE will be greatly increased by the new dress, and I assure you that if my help will do any good I will help all I can. I will close.

Hoping you succeed, I remain yours respectfully,  
Care of Hall & Waller, Waco, Tex.

THE GAZETTE is glad to have the help of this little boy, as it is to have that of all its friends.

WHAT WILL BE DONE ABOUT IT?

The San Antonio Times, replying to THE GAZETTE's advocacy of a more liberal land policy in the interest of the actual settler, says:

Many interests of West Texas and of the Panhandle demand amendment of the land laws, and that amendment should be made by the Twenty-first legislature. The law which forbids the settler's purchase to the state for non-payment of interest on the very day it is due is harsh and absurd. The state of Texas, which so firmly protects a man in his homestead, is inconsistent when it fails to facilitate the acquisition of a homestead. The land law should be amended.

Texas lands are so cheap and the terms of sale are so accommodating that, in justice to the whole people, the state should rigidly enforce the laws. When a man is allowed forty years in which to pay for his home, and is charged only a low rate of interest on the purchase price, and then defaults in his payments, he will not be a great public benefit to the state, and ought to give up his place to some one who is more industrious and enterprising. Of course there are exceptions, but the general rule should be rigid enforcement of our land laws, and they are very good ones, too.

Will the Times answer this? Suppose one private citizen should buy land of another, on long time, giving several notes to be paid at yearly intervals; suppose it were a condition of each of those notes that the failure to pay interest on all or either of them at a stated time should, ipso facto, work a forfeiture to the vendor of the land and all the money paid upon it; suppose that, after paying all of those notes but one, the vendee should fail to make the interest payment upon that one according to the terms of the contract, does the Times believe that the vendor could in good conscience claim the land and retain all he had received upon it?

Does not the Times know that if such a claim were pressed in court, the applicant would be summarily kicked out with the costs adjudged against him?

Does not the Times know that the user who claims his unlawful interest because it is so nominated in the bond dures not lift his head in the presence of the law?

Can the Times point out any difference between the financial policy of the Texas land system and that of the user which is not favorable to the user?

As a moral question, which is the more discrederable: to claim unlawful interest or to pocket the last farthing of an unfortunate debtor who can not pay the interest on what he owes, taking with it the property out of which the debt arose?

If the policy of the state toward the men who are giving their all to its development be not a system of legalized theft, then the ethics of individual action and of government are two very different matters.

It is not simply a theory of the system of which the settlers complain. In the vaults of the state at Austin to-day, there are thousands of dollars representing the interment resources of men with large families to support, and the lands upon which those money were paid are now held by the state, while the pauperized families who once occupied them are somewhere struggling for a pitiful existence.

They were industrious; they were en-

terprising; but they were poor, and, being poor, they could not meet the requirements of the Texas land law.

THE GAZETTE says it regretfully, but it declares what is known by all familiar with the situation to be a fact, that, except under the most favorable local conditions, poor men are so handicapped in an effort to obtain a home on the public lands, that an alarmingly large number of them are endeavoring to sell their claims. There is not a land agent in the Panhandle who cannot supply any number of such sections that may be desired.

The question is: What is the state going to do about it?

OF NO AVAIL.

Five negroes are among the newly elected members of the legislature in the great Democratic state of Texas, which is a better showing for African representation than could be made in the legislatures of all the Republican states put together.—(Philadelphia Record.)

You plead in vain. Texas has elected negroes to the legislature as you say, but what of it? Is there any free ballot or fair count or public schools in this state? Do we not bulldoze Republicans and prevent them from putting out a state ticket? Is any man's life in Texas safe if he dares to call himself a Republican? Isn't every man who comes to Texas forced to be born again, and to be born a seceder Democrat? It's no use, esteemed Record; it's no use. Foraker and the Inter-Ocean would not believe there was political liberty in the South if every man elected to the Texas legislature was a negro (one g).

THE FRUITS OF IT.

The proof of the pudding is the chewing of the bag.

If Texas land policies have not been radically wrong and harmful in their operations, how are these facts to be accounted for?

The census of 1880 reported a population of 1616 in the Panhandle of Texas, comprising twenty-seven counties. This report is blank with respect to Greer, Carson, Dallam, Sherman, Ochiltree, Moore, Parmer and Castro counties and accredits Randall with a population of but three, Colliersworth with six, Swisher four, and Briscoe twelve. The returns are manifestly incomplete, and indicate a population in the Panhandle at that time of 2560 at the very lowest estimate.

In the recent election there were cast in these twenty-seven counties 2000 votes. It is probable, because of the large proportion of single men in the west, that the ratio of population to the voting strength is about two and a half to one. Assuming, however, that the ratio is three to one the population of the Panhandle is now 6180.

Since 1880, or in nearly nine years, twenty-seven counties containing more than 20,000,000 of acres of land have increased their total population by 3650 people.

But that is not the most startling revelation made by the figures. Since the taking of the census there have been established in the Panhandle, fourteen townships that are now re-called by THE GAZETTE; the true number is probably over twenty. Childress, Amarillo, Washburn, Cheyenne, Panhandle City, Miami, Canadian, Higgins, Lipscomb, Timms City, Ochiltree, Farwell, Hansford and Mangum were all unoccupied sites when the census taker made his rounds in 1880. Their combined population is not less than 3000. Clarendon, Tascosa and Mobetie have increased their populations in the aggregate by 500.

These, then, are the results of nearly one decade under the Texas land system in the territory most vitally affected by it: Total increase of population, 3650; increase of township population, 3500; net increase in "settler" population, 180.

It may be asserted that the sales of school land reported from Austin tell a different tale, that several millions of acres have been purchased and occupied by actual settlers since 1880.

If any one is so credulous as to believe that all the school lands sold under the actual settler law have been sold to actual settlers, they can obtain better information by applying to Ex-Land Commissioner Walsh, Commissioner Hall or State Land Agent McCullough. A conservative estimate places the amount of public lands bought for speculative purposes since the requirement of settlement was introduced into the system at about 70 per cent.

It will not be denied, of course, that more than one hundred and eighty actual settlers have gone into the Panhandle during the last eight years. The mistake is that while some have been going in others have been moving out, leaving a net gain for the decade of 180.

With this ratio of increase the Panhandle would acquire something near the population of Tarrant county in the year of our Lord A. D. 2138.

In the light of these facts, this clause in the petition which will be submitted to the Twenty-first legislature from the actual settlers of the Panhandle, becomes impressive of a great truth, ignorance of which on the part of the state government has kept the northwest unsettled, and continued ignorance of which will keep it unsettled until doomsday:

It is a well known fact, proven over and over again, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in every new country that has been settled, that it is about all a new country is worth to settle and improve it.

We may deceive ourselves and a few unsuspecting individuals, but we cannot delude the shrewd men who are seeking investment for their money, or a country where they can locate prosperous homes.

We would further state in this our petition as the grounds upon which we base our demands, that we believe if the land law be not changed so as to hold out greater inducements to the actual settler that the Panhandle and West Texas will remain unsettled and unoccupied except by large cattle owners. Strenuous efforts have been put forth by those already settled, and large expenses have been incurred to settle the country under the present

land law, and we must pronounce our efforts a failure. Railroads have been built, towns started, newspapers, postoffices, mail lines, schools and churches established, but the settlement of the country remains about the same as it was two years ago. While many have come into the country, few have remained; some settlers that were supposed to be permanently located, have gone, and others are going; some have settled on the land and refused to file, while others that have filed have let their land go back to the state.

Shall the next decade show a total increase in the actual settler population of the Panhandle of but 180? If not the land system must be revised and liberalized.

What is the legislature going to do about it?

MAKING A PRESIDENT.

Speaker Carlisle was recently interviewed on the subject of the electoral system and declared in favor of a change in the method of choosing a president.

His plan was first suggested by him to a committee of the Forty-fifth congress, of which he was a member, appointed to consider this question. It would divide the electoral votes of the states among the parties on the basis of their proportions of the popular vote.

The speaker's plan is simply an evolution of the idea of minority representation. Its logical end would be to give minorities proportionate representation in every department of the government. If that be proper and expedient then the Democratic party has been under a delusion from the time of its organization, and the maxim that majorities should rule should be stricken from its creed.

In 1826 a senate committee was appointed to consider the advisability of a change in the electoral system. At its head was a statesman without a peer in his or in any succeeding generation, Thomas H. Benton of Missouri. The other members of the committee were Mr. Macon of North Carolina, Martin Van Buren, Mr. White of Tennessee, Mr. Findlay of Pennsylvania, Mr. Dickerson of New Jersey, Mr. Holmes of Maine, Mr. Hayne of South Carolina, and Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky, constituting, with their chairman, the cream of the statesmanship of a period which gave to the republic its greatest statesmen. This committee reported unanimously a plan which contained three features:

1. The abolition of electors, and the direct vote of the people.

2. A second election between the two highest on each list when no one has a majority of the whole.

3. Uniformity in the mode of election.

Its purpose, as stated by Mr. Benton, was "to get rid of all the machinery by which the selection of their two first magistrates is now taken out of the hands of the people, and usurped by self-constituted, illegal and irresponsible bodies and place it in the only safe, proper and disinterested hands—those of the people themselves."

It proposed a division of the states into districts, on the congressional plan, each representing one vote and each voting directly on the candidates for president and vice-president. In the event that no candidate should receive a majority of all the districts, each counting one vote, a second election was provided for at which the names of the two candidates receiving the highest votes were to be balloted upon.

Whenever the country resolves to try a new method of president making, it will be in order to consider the merits of Tom Benton's plan.

ABOUT MEN AND WOMEN.

Garfield's inauguration cost \$30,000; Cleveland's, \$89,000.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain takes with her to England a fortune in diamonds.

Representative Burrows of Michigan is hard at work pushing his canvass for speaker of the next house.

The duke of Sutherland is the greatest land owner in Great Britain, whose possessions embrace 1,355,545 acres.

Mrs. Langtry has a fortune of \$550,000, Clara Louise Kellogg \$300,000, Fanny Davenport \$150,000, and Kate Claxton \$125,000.

A correspondent who recently visited Senator Beck found him improving in health, though with little hope of entire restoration.

Emperor William has had the imperial crown of Germany so altered as to make it an exact counterpart of the one worn by Charlemagne.

Mrs. Harrison will be the thirty-third lady to preside over the executive mansion, although Mr. Harrison will be the twenty-third president.

The feather bed is said to be declining in popularity, and yet the consumption of feathers in this country amounts to 3,000,000 pounds annually.

Mrs. A. L. Self, nee Miss Hilda Carter, wife of County Clerk Self of Kaufman county, Texas, is a double cousin of President-elect Harrison.

James McMillan of Detroit, who will probably be the next senator from Michigan, is worth \$15,000,000. He is fifty years old and began life poor.

James Evelyn, the veteran clerk of the war department at Washington, has been in government service since 1829. He is now about eighty years old.

M. Cory, a well known resident of Montpelier, Vt., won enough money by betting on Harrison's election to warrant his inviting 1300 of his friends, including the entire state legislature, to dine with him.

Bret Harte, the author, is in his fiftieth year. He has been writing since the '60's, when he printed a number of poems and war lyrics in the San Francisco papers. Previous to this time he had been a compositor.

The inventor of the railway ticket, Robert Saville, has just died. Formerly receipts were given for traveling fares, as in the case of mail coaches. Saville, a clerk in the Birmingham Railway Company, hit upon the ticket.

Sir John Lester Kays has eleven farms in Manitoba, all supplied with buildings and machinery. He raises better flax than the Irish, which is worth \$350 a ton. Next summer 33,000 sheep now in Oregon will be transferred to his farms.

Miss Strong, the young American rival of Rosa Bonheur, is a native of San Francisco. Her face belies her; as it is not attractive and would indicate a weak

character, while, in fact, she is a woman of marked artistic power and determination of mind.

A circumstance not generally known is that all mail matter addressed to Sarah Polk, Lucretia R. Garfield and Julia D. Grant may be sent free of charge. No signature or mark is necessary to the free carriage of mail matter to either of the above-named persons.

Laborer is said to possess a waterfall that makes Niagara Falls